

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CS

SUBJECT: CCTD CONGRESS REELECTS OMAR CAAMANO AS
SECRETARY-GENERAL

REF: SAN JOSE A-97

CONTRARY TO MOST INDICATIONS TWO WEEKS AGO, OMAR CAAMANO, THE CONTROVERSIAL SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COSTA RICAN CONFEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WORKERS (CCTD) WAS REELECTED ON AUGUST 18 FOR ANOTHER YEAR AS THE DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION'S SECRETARY-GENERAL. CAAMANO OVERSHELMINGLY DEFEATED LUIS ARMANDO GUTIERREZ, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CCTD AND LEADER OF THE COSTA RICAXF BANK WORKERS UNION (FEBAS), BY A VOTE OF 68-20. THE IMPLICATIONS OF CAAMANO'S VICTORY HAVE YET TO PLAY OUT BUT PRE-ELECTION REPORTS INDICATED THAT GUTIERREZ, IN THE EVENT OF DEFEAT, MAY WELL TAKE HIS LARGE BANK WORKERS UNION AND POECIBLY SOME OTHER WHITE COLLAR PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS OUT OF THE CCTD AND FORM A SEPARATE CONFEDERATION EXCLUSIVELY OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. THE EMBASSY WILL BE REPORTING MORE FULLY ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTUR, BUT SUFFICE TO SAY THAT IF GUTIERREZ SPLITS, THE CCTD--ALREADY IN DECLINE UNDER CAAMANO'S LEADERSHIP--MAY BECOME THE SECOND
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LARGEST "DEMOCRATIC" CONFEDERATION IN THE COUNTRY.

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